

# Technology Tells a Tale on Columbus' Southside

We seek to co-create a healthy, just, and accessible food environment by working together with Central Ohio residents and providing useful tools and training to understand and transform our local food system.

## Principles of Community Based Participatory Research

1. Embracing the gifts of diversity.
2. Realizing the role of race, power & injustice.
3. Radical Hospitality: invitation & listening.
4. Trust building & commitment.
5. Honoring dissent & embracing protest.
6. Adaptability to community change.

COLUMBUS, OHIO

Focus Area

"Basically, now since they changed the bus routes, it takes me forever, about **an hour and a half just to go to the store.**"

"I've been to the grocery store before on a COTA bus and it's not nice. It's me and my kids....Because you have so much, so many bags to carry and they get tired. **And it was just too much.**"

"They go buy their old bread, or the bread other stores don't want to sell, **they want to charge you \$2 for some stale bread.** I would rather take the time and go the farther."

"I was just lookin' at the dates and the dates was like, like not even correct. There was one from 2014 and like that's expired. So basically, I have to make sure that the stuff was in date. Like when I went to go uh, check out, I didn't get to...I got like a baby receipt, that would say one thing, that was it and I was like, **it don't even tell you everything that you got.**"

"A **bunch a junk** they stuffin' down these kid's throat."

"That I can get **more for my money if I drive a little, little further.**"

"Yes, I usually **leave the neighborhood when I shop.**"

"Gots to **have a vehicle.**"

"Cuz basically, you **surrounded by like a bunch of sweets** instead of healthy good food."

"Except for the beer [laughter], what? Yes I would say pretty much all of the food in there that is not in a cooler is out of date, **molded, dusty, crusty or disgusting** [laughter] you know, except for the beer, that's really how ma...how he stays in business. His beer sales, wine sales."

## OUR METHOD

We use a modified version of the HEAL MAPPS™ tool to assess the lived experience of food insecurity

- Community partners, mappers, and stakeholders are invited to participate.
- Community mappers are trained to use Garmins.
- Mappers learn how to record their experiences using the map, photos and journals.
- We give each of them, youth & adults, \$20 to spend on food.
- Data from the mappers is collected.
- Interviews are conducted and partners and mappers hold community conversations.
- The research team supports them and helps them to establish a task force to make substantive changes in their neighborhood food environment through policy, advocacy and action.

**OUR VISION:** CENTRAL OHIO RESIDENTS WHO ARE ENGAGED, EMPOWERED, AND ACTIVELY COLLABORATING WITH DECISION-MAKERS TO CO-CREATE A FAIR & SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM THAT BENEFITS OUR LOCAL ECONOMIES, OUR ENVIRONMENT, AND THE HEALTH OF ALL PEOPLE.



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

KIRWAN INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF RACE AND ETHNICITY